



AmeriCorps IN Action

AmeriCorps Opening Ceremonies



Members pose after winning AmeriCorps gear for their participation in an ice breaker activity

Over 100 AmeriCorps State members and staff gathered at Waycross Camp near Morgantown, Indiana on October 17th and 18th for the AmeriCorps Opening Ceremonies. This event, hosted by the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, offered opportunities to attend various training sessions, work on community service projects, and to meet members from AmeriCorps sites throughout the state.

Most of the attendees arrived on Tuesday morning to find a full day planned for them. After opening remarks and

lunch, Margaret Gilbride from the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community spoke to the group about disability awareness and led them through exercises to think about how they talk about and work with people with disabilities.

Members spent the rest of the afternoon working on three different service projects. One group created greeting cards to send to Hoosiers serving in the armed forces overseas. Another group decorated small cards with inspirational quotes, to be used in a collage at Horizon House, a day center for the homeless of Indianapolis. The collage will spell out the organization's motto, "Empowering Lives, Ending Homelessness." Others made sit-upons to distribute at Hori-

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Greeting cards for service men and women overseas

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AmeriCorps opening ceremonies, cont'd.



Margaret Gilbride speaks about disability awareness

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zon House.

The following day, members had the chance to hear speakers address a variety of topics: Tim Nation, director of the Peace Learning Center in Indianapolis, led groups in conflict resolution exercises. Vicki Bateman, director of the Volunteer Action Center in Bartholomew County spoke about volunteer recruitment. Tyrrell Giles, a former AmeriCorps member himself and now program manager for the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute discussed the opportunities available in life after AmeriCorps.

Meanwhile, Paula Parker-Sawyers, director of the OFBCI, conducted a training session on fund development for program directors.

Afterwards, everyone came together one last time for lunch and Judge Judith A. Stewart from the Brown County Circuit Court administered the AmeriCorps pledge to swear in the new members.

The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives would like to congratulate all of the new AmeriCorps members on their commitment to service. Have a wonderful year!



Members make sit-upons for distribution at Horizon House



Hon. Judith A. Stewart, Judge, Brown County Circuit Court



Members reciting the AmeriCorps pledge

Program of the Month: AmeriCorps Peacemakers



Peace Learning Center offers a variety of programs for children and young adults

"Peace Learning Center promotes a culture of peace through education to youth and communities."

-Peace Learning Center's mission statement

Established in 1997 with the help of AmeriCorps Peacemakers, the Peace Learning Center is a community-based organization that promotes peace building and character education. Their programs teach the "rules of the road" for dealing with conflicts and differences. Since its beginning, PLC has reached nearly 100,000 people

and set up 35 school-based peer mediation programs.

Peace Learning Center offers a variety of programs for children and young people from elementary to high school—they host students from more than 100 schools. AmeriCorps members assist in

several programs including:

- Peace Education – for 3rd – 6th grades; a day of community leadership, conflict resolution, and non-violent self defense.
- Peace Learning Camp – for 4th – 9th grades; a 3-day event for all 7th grade classes in Indiana public schools, covering interpersonal communication, diversity appreciation, and environmental stewardship.
- Peace Learning Services – 6th through 12th grades; workshops that teach how to deal with the root causes of conflict through dialogue and active learning.

For more information about the Peace Learning Center & AmeriCorps Peacemakers, visit the website at: <http://www.peacelearningcenter.org>.



Peace Learning Center hosts students from more than 100 schools



Got something to say?

If your AmeriCorps program has an upcoming event, article idea, or accomplishment and would like to highlight in AmeriCorps IN Action, please contact, Sarah Bonilla at SBonilla@ofbci.in.gov or 317-234-4287.

AmeriCorps Member of the Month- Whitney Guthrie-AmeriCorps Peacemakers

Whitney Guthrie works at the Peace Learning Center as part of the Peace Learning Services Team, where she leads peace education lessons for over 1500 middle and high school students. “Not only does she share skills for dealing with conflicts, she motivates and inspires students to take responsibility for themselves and their community through service,” says director Tim Nation of her contributions.

After graduating from DePauw University with a degree in Spanish, Whitney found that many of her interests—migrant



Whitney Guthrie, November AmeriCorps member of the month

issues, photography, animals—were reflected in a number of AmeriCorps programs. Realizing that she could enjoy serving at any of these sites, she kept her mind open to different possibilities, and later found

herself working at AmeriCorps Peacemakers.

She brings a great deal of experience in facilitating and mentoring youth to AmeriCorps Peacemakers, from her involvement in starting Young Life clubs in both her high school and university. She also studied abroad in Grenada, Spain during college, where she realized she “would never be a city girl.” She enjoys nature, animals, horseback riding, and hiking, and also loves getting to know other people and hearing about their lives.

Rise in College Student Volunteering

The number of college students who volunteer each year has risen dramatically since 9/11, according to a new report by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) entitled *College Students Helping America*.

In 2005, 3.3 million college students between the ages of 16 and 24 volunteered, compared with 2.7 million in 2002. This

represents a 20% increase, more than twice the rate of growth for all adult volunteers (9%). Indiana ranked 13th in the nation for college student volunteer rates—37.3% of Hoosier college students volunteered from 2003 to 2005. The authors suggest that this new generation of civic-minded youth, many who were affected by the terrorist attacks while they were still in high school,

may be a bright spot in the wake September 11th.



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The report revealed other interesting trends in college volunteering: Tutoring and men-

College Student Volunteering

toring were the most popular volunteer activities among college volunteers. Also, students are more likely to engage in episodic volunteer work than the general population-- meaning they work fewer than two weeks with their main organization. They do emphasize, however, that 44.1% of college volunteers engage in regular

volunteering (more than 12 weeks with their main organization) and that 24.4% served for 100-499 hours.

The full report is available on the CNCS website at http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/06_1016_RPD_college_full.pdf.

November 2006: Important Dates

November 7	General Election Day, OFBCI closed
November 9	PER due for period ending 10/31/06 (one each for PY05-06 and PY06-07)
November 10	Veterans' Day (Observed), OFBCI closed
November 16	New Program Conference Call, 9:30am—10:30am
November 17	Program Directors' Training 8:30am—4:00pm, Indianapolis
November 18	National Family Volunteer Day www.pointsoflight.org
November 23-24	Thanksgiving Holidays, OFBCI closed



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